



"The Kennel of Hope"

Tails of Hope

The Newsletter of Animals in Distress
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The Lights Are Gone...or Are They?

Some people hang on to the holiday spirit: they leave their lights on longer, they close their drapes at night so people driving by don't see that their Christmas tree is still up (and lit), they leave wreaths on doors and icicle lights along their roofs. They don't want to let go of the season—of the feelings it brings.

It is easy to want to hang on to a season when people are extra kind, when they smile more, when they are more charitable, when songs of joy and happiness fill the air. At Animals in Distress, we like to say that we hold on to the Christmas spirit all year, in how we do what we do to help friendless, sad unwanted animals. We are so blessed to have friends who care about these animals, and during the holidays we get to hear from many of these friends—through donations, nice notes on cards, and collections of needed items. Sometimes, children make cards to go along with the items they collected. One child wrote on her card: "Thank you for taking care of these friendly animals. You may not know how many amazing lives you've saved. Thank you so much for your love and support to these animals. I bet they really appreciate it." Another child from that same school wrote: *"I hope that God can bless your animals so they can stay strong...."*

That card took our breath away: the child asked God to bless our animals so THEY could stay strong. What wisdom and kindness are in those simple words. A child in years, but a wise person in soul and spirit. Then there are the people who sent much needed donations, accompanied by loving and encouraging notes and letters. Most thanked us for what we do for the animals, many blessed our work and us, and some mentioned specific animals who are sponsored in our Take-A-Pet-To-Dinner Program or mentioned in our newsletters.

Several children told their families to donate to our shelter animals, the money they would spend on Christmas gifts for the child, or to buy gifts for the animals with that money. Imagine a 5 -9 year old child being so caring as to say something like that, especially in this day's emphasis on material things and people driven to accumulate more and more. There is such hope for the future when young people see so clearly what is important, when young people are inspired to choose others' needs. No wonder many of us hate to see the holiday spirit fade. *We want to believe in goodness, and hope, and love, and charity....we yearn for a world run by compassion and understanding, where we support and nurture each other, where we care for those without a voice.*

We must mention and thank those whose tributes to loved ones filled our Hospitality Center. Poinsettias, ornaments, and wreaths bearing the names of those being honored or

remembered filled the room, silent reminders of those who are loved. What better way to honor those we love than to help others in their name? And we must not forget those who donated baskets, food, and other items for open house and the holiday bazaar. The photo collage later in this newsletter captures the wide range of ways that people helped...including those who attended our events, bought raffle tickets and homemade pet treats, and volunteered in many ways to make everything happen.

Your encouraging letters and notes, accompanying your donations, have filled our hearts with inspiration, especially when we are struggling to choke back tears and are wondering if we can continue to do this heartbreaking work. Knowing that you understand what we do and why we do it means everything to us. You help us continue our work. You care about animals that you may never see in person, that you may never hold in your arms.....you are generous, compassionate, and supportive. *You, to quote a famous song, are "the wind beneath our wings."*

Because of you, the world is a better place; and our little corner of the world at Animals in Distress exists because you are who you are--and what you are.

In 2025, we resolve to keep the holiday spirit alive all year. We pray for the strength to do what must be done, and we pray that our friends will continue to bless us with their donations, prayers, and time. Thank you for being there for us. We pledge to you to continue to do our best for hundreds of the most pathetic and friendless animals. We promise not to give up on them. In return, we ask that you continue to do what you can to make our work possible.

To repeat the words of the 4th grader: "I hope that God can bless your animals so they can stay strong...." We hope that we stay strong so we can continue to save lives, light candles in the darkness, and keep the holiday spirit alive all year. With your help, that goal is attainable. Thank you for believing in our work. You make miracles possible.



May 2025 be kind to you and those you love. Keep the holiday spirit alive all year... don't let darkness win.



Many thanks to Mary Faith and Friends for providing celestial music for our holiday open house.



We had so many baskets that the social spilled over into the cat kennel. As you can see, the cats didn't mind the extra activity in their home





Our first goat with Santa Paws picture

Above in our dog kennel is a memorial display honoring AID dogs who passed away. To the right is a display of adopted dogs. Above that is a stocking for one of our shelter residents, Chloe. Every dog has an individually designed xmas stocking thanks to staff member Diana, who has a site named Diana'sDecoratives on Etsy.

Animals in Distress
Membership Renewal/Enrollment Form

Please detach or copy this coupon and return it, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and your membership fee to:
Membership, Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ OR

Credit Card: Discover, MasterCard or VISA (circle one)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____

Authorized Signature _____

Please enroll/renew (circle one) my 2025 AID
Membership in the following category
(select one):

☐ **Life** - \$250 (once payable)

☐ **Senior** (65 and older) - \$10

☐ **Sustaining** - \$50

☐ **Active** - \$20

☐ **Corporate** - \$500

If this is a gift membership, include name and address here: _____

YOU MAKE EVERYTHING WE DO POSSIBLE.....

The reality of doing the kind of work we do is that it takes money....and we cannot do this work without your constant support. Wishing won't mend broken bones, heat kennels, or buy medicine. Cold, hard cash is a constant concern for those of us who work, day after day, to keep the shelter running, and the animals safe and cared for.

Bless those who send regular donations, which are the lifeblood of our funding.

Another key resource is the unselfish, often impassioned volunteerism that allows us to use 100% of every dollar donated for animal care, NOT for administrative salaries, fundraising, bookkeeping, and many other jobs normally paid for in many nonprofits.

And still another invaluable source of income is bequests and memorials when someone dies. Without bequests from people who remember us in their wills, we would never have been able to build our shelter or pay our bills in months when demands for our help far exceed our income from donations and fundraisers, and we are running tens of thousands of dollars in the red. Heating repairs and many other unexpected expenses create huge stress on our budget and demand more from us as the building ages. **Our HVAC system had been on life support for several years, and we replaced two of our rooftop units in 2024, and seven others in the preceding two years. This is a huge amount of money but we have no choice. Animals' lives and welfare are at stake.**

We have several fundraising events in the upcoming months. We hope you will support them generously. Maybe your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, church groups, scout groups, etc. would like to join you in running your own fundraiser, or supporting one or more of ours?

You might notice that we are not spending huge amounts of money on catered events, expensive places like hotels and resorts, and professional organizers. Our volunteers do a great job of putting events together, with love and attention to detail. They do that so that 100% of every dollar raised will go to the shelter—100% goes to the animals.

CHINESE AUCTION | REFRESHMENTS | 50/50 RAFFLE | DOOR PRIZES

VERA BRADLEY & LONGABERGER BASKET



TO BENEFIT

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS SATURDAY, APRIL 26

DOORS OPEN 11:00 AM | BINGO STARTS 1PM | 130 TICKETS AVAILABLE

\$30 FOR 20 GAMES

4 SPECIAL GAME PACK IS \$5

BRING DONATIONS FOR THE SHELTER
AND GET 5 FREE CHINESE AUCTION TICKETS
(FOOD, LITTER, TREATS, CLEANING SUPPLIES, ETC.)

EMMAUS FIRE CO. NO. 1

50 S. 6TH STREET | EMMAUS, PA

FOOD & BAKED GOODS AVAILABLE | NO OUTSIDE FOOD PERMITTED

FOR MORE INFO:

CALL KELLY AT 610-762-8553 OR EMAIL KHART70906@AOL.COM
OR GET YOUR TICKET AT ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

NEVER LOSE HOPE

We're going to share the story of Hope, a kitten that we rescued two days after Christmas. Hope was a 7 to 8 week old kitten that someone had abandoned. An old man was trying to feed her, but he had no idea how bad her situation was.

One of the old man's neighbors saw the kitten huddled next to a filthy puddle in the back alley. The situation was disgusting. The kitten was thin and cold. The puddle was muddy and showed the residue of ice melt that had been placed on the road. Worse yet, the kitten was blind. She was suffering from a major infection, and the pus and ooze from her eye sockets had congealed on the surface, literally making it impossible for her to open her eyes.

We are going to share a picture taken by the neighbor. It's not the clearest picture, but it convey the situation she was in.



Clearly, she not only needed food and shelter; she needed serious medical care. The neighbor and the old man could not provide either of these things. They called around for help, but got no response.

Eventually, they heard about and contacted us. There was no way that we could turn this kitten away to die a horrible death.

We cannot begin to imagine how anyone could put such a helpless creature out to die a slow and horrible death. There were no other kittens or a mother cat around, so it is extremely unlikely that the kitten got in the situation without human involvement. It's difficult to imagine how someone could throw this baby out in the cold to die, especially around Christmas. There must be a special place in Hell for those who commit such cruelty.

We rushed the kitten to the vet and are very happy (and relieved) to report that the kitten was rescued in enough time so that the kitten did not lose its sight. Had the eyes not been opened up so the eye discharge could keep draining, the kitten would have gone blind.

We have rescued many kittens in similar condition, but it was too late to save their sight. Just heartbreaking.

We have named the kitten Hope. We could not think of a

more fitting name because we never know what the outcome of a rescue is going to be, but we always have hope. Hope that the animal will recover, hope that we can prevent irreversible damage, hope that miracles are possible. We are the Kennel of Hope, thanks to those who share our belief in kindness and love for those abandoned and forgotten by others.

We're now going to share a few pictures of Hope a week after her rescue. Good vet care, antibiotics, and basic food and shelter, have transformed her body into that of a young kitten who just wants to live and enjoy life.

The one picture shows her gobbling down a plate of canned food, which is probably the best food she's ever eaten in her life. Notice her eyes.



They aren't full of fear. They aren't pasted shut, blinding her to the future. Instead, her eyes are open and able to see her future. We look at her eyes, and we see a reflection of all the good that we have done, are

doing, and can do. We are also going to share a picture of her little area set up in her cage, where you can see a huge stuffed animal, providing her with some security and a Cuddle Buddy.



Words are insufficient to explain how such rescues make us feel.

And words are insufficient to convey how much your friendship and support mean to us. Without all of our friends, we cannot do these kinds of rescues. And we don't do them just occasionally. Every day of the year brings the potential to save another animal whose time is running out.



Valentine's Day is coming up, and some of you will be receiving tributes of flowers and candy and nice dinners out in restaurants. We won't be spending our money on any of those things, but we are sending you our special Valentine's Day gift and wish. The gift is our story about Hope and the love that made her survival and rescue possible. And that gift is reflected in hundreds of other animals who now call our sanctuary home.

.....Please detach this coupon and mail it to: Animals in Distress, P.O. Box 609, Coopersburg, PA 18036....

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to provide a chance for animals like Hope, and so many others. who need a second chance in a world that seldom gives second chances. They depend on us for their lives.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

{ } Check enclosed OR If credit card**:

Card number_____

***Only Mastercard, VISA, & Discover cards are accepted, please.*

Exp. Date_____

Name on card_____

Signature of cardholder_____

Check this box if you do NOT need a receipt for your donation

☐

"To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care." 🙏
Mandy Hale



UPCOMING EVENTS

Membership Campaign—new and renewals, see form in this newsletter

Easter Craft and Gift Bazaar at the shelter, starts Saturday, March 29, and continues every Saturday and Sunday, from 1 to 4 pm, until after Easter.

Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny, at the shelter—1 to 3:30 pm on Sunday, March 30 and Saturday, April 5. No appointments are needed. Gift shop will be available.

Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo, April 26—See poster in this newsletter for details.

Yard Sale, Saturday, March 22, from 8am to Noon, at the Animals in Distress Shelter, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg. Rain or shine. You can reserve a table spot for \$10. Contact Kelly for more info: email: khart70906@aol.com or cell: 610-762-8553.

Laps of Love Walkathon, at the shelter—Sunday, June 1, starting at 10 am. Details in upcoming newsletter and on our website.

48th Alumni Day Pets and People Party , Sunday, June 1 Celebration at the shelter—noon to 4 pm. Do not miss this major celebration of our lifesaving work!!

WAEB Radiothon—biggest fundraiser of the year—starts July 14, details TBA

2025 Volunteer Orientation Schedule, April, 22, July 29, and October 28—7pm, at Animals in Distress, 5075 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA. Visit us or our website for directions and Volunteer Application. Volunteers help with fundraising, cleaning, maintenance, bake sales, tending and mowing grass, etc. in addition to working with the dogs and cats.

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

P.O. BOX 609
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Lehigh Valley, PA
Permit No. 271

DATED MATERIAL . . . PLEASE RUSH

Current Resident



FIRST MONUMENT DEDICATED TO ABANDONED ANIMALS

Since 2010, the boardwalk of Moaña, in Galicia, Spain, houses an emotional sculpture of a dog without a breed with a cat between its legs. This stone work pays tribute to homeless animals and was driven by Lela Soage, a woman whose life was dedicated to providing shelter and love to these abandoned beings. The monument, besides being a symbol of compassion, reminds the importance of respect and responsibility towards animals without a family.